Calcoin News

Bulletin of the

California State Numismatic Association

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Volume 5, Number 2

MARCH, 1951

CSNA Convention a Numismatic 'Must'

Place and Dates: Hotel Casa Del Rey, Santa Cruz, April 6-8.

Registration: Begins 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 6. Fee of $6 includes banquet and luncheon.

Exhibits: Will be placed beginning at 2:30 p.m. Friday. If you plan to exhibit, write to Fred Skillman, 1211 Broadway, Santa Cruz, for space reservation. Exhibitors limited to three cases until all who want them have that number. Specify display category — U.S., ancient, foreign, or special. First, second, and third prizes will be awarded in each of first three groups, judging being done by registered members. Exhibit case has inside area of 20 by 20 inches, and depth of from one to two inches. Police protection will be provided. Act now; number of cases is limited.

Bourse: Usual $10 charge for table with two cases. Hotel promises plenty of lamps. Dealers should apply for space to E. A. Parker, 1254 Market St., San Francisco, as soon as possible.

Forum Speakers: H. F. Bowker, Oakland, "Chinese Coins"; Dr. Glen Curtis, Brea, "My Most Interesting Coins"; Everett S. Ostrom, Kingsburg, "Numismatics and Medals"; and Robert H. Vermilya, San Francisco, "Coins of Alexander the Great."

Entertainment: Boardwalk concessions open. Ralph Mitchell and Leonel C. Panosh will be toastmasters at banquet and luncheon, respectively. Antoinette and Bill Connell will play piano and organ during luncheon. Buddy King's orchestra will play during banquet, and for Saturday night dance across street from hotel. A lounge room will be provided for the ladies.

Auctions: By Wittlin's, Saturday and Sunday, 2 p.m.

Hotel Reservations: Send now, directly to hotel management. Single rooms, $5; double rooms, $7; and twins, $8. Put "CSNA" on reservations.

Convention Chairmen: General chairman, R. G. McArthur, Oakland; registration, L. C. Panosh, San Diego; exhibits, C. F. Skillman, Santa Cruz; bourse, E. A. Parker, San Francisco; awards, Dr. C. L. Emmons, Ontario; door prizes, K. W. Lee, Glendale; forum, A. W. Ritchie, Berkeley; entertainment, F. X. Galvin, Oakland; and publicity, C. V. Kappen, San Jose.

CALCOIN NEWS

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Vol. V MARCH, 1951 No. 2

Santa Barbara Mint Made 'Ponga' Money

Santa Barbara, where the California State Numismatic Association was founded on Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, 1947, has some claim to having the first private mint in California, according to the Santa Barbara Gazette in a September, 1860, issue.

Tulare County Indians, in groups of 20 to 30, made annual treks to Santa Barbara, armed with bows and arrows and laden with panoche or thick sugar. The panoche was made from honey-dew and Carisa cane and was put in small oblong sacks made of grass and swamp flags. They also brought nut pipes and wild tobacco which they had pounded and mixed with lime to produce a chewing tobacco called pispewat.

These they brought to exchange for a species of money called "ponga," made by the Indian Mint of the Santa Barbara rancherias.

This ponga money was made from the hardest part of the small edible white muscle which the barbarians from Santa Rosa Island, off the coast of Santa Barbara, brought in. They were pieces of shell and were rounded. Each piece had a hole in the middle and several pieces were made up in units of a rial on a string which was the length of 2½ times around the hand, i.e., from the end of the middle finger to the wrist. Eight of these rials passed for the value of one U. S. silver dollar.—Roy Hill.

With Our Juniors

The Junior Coin Collectors of San Francisco have been meeting regularly on the third Friday of each month at the San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, McAllister and Larkin Sts. Trading, buying, and "miniature auctions" comprise most of the activity.

Officers for 1951 are Dean Maddox Jr., president; Robert Illing, vice-president; Tom Twohey, 226 Staples Ave., San Francisco 12, secretary; and Arnold Rosing, treasurer. Roy Hill continues as counselor, a position he has held since 1938.

Dennis Olswang made a talk and exhibit on coins of Canada at the January meeting of the East Bay Junior Coin Collectors, Oakland.

The group will exhibit coins at the CSNA convention in Santa Cruz April 6-8.

* * *

The East Bay Junior Coin Collectors assemble on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Oakland Public Museum, 1426 Oak St., Oakland, to look at coins, make exchanges, and hold informal chats.

The December meeting featured a short talk and exhibit on Finland and her coins by Roy Hill. Dennis Olswang of the San Francisco juniors spoke on Canada and her coins at the January meeting, and exhibited his Canadian collection.

Officers are William Walton, president; John Mee, vice-president; Lynn White, secretary; and George Sterling, treasurer. Roy Hill, counselor, has guided the club's activities since it was founded April 15, 1948, just one day before the East Bay Coin Club was formed.

Friday, April 13, will be Junior Coin Collector night at the regular meeting of the East Bay Coin Club.

—Roy Hill, Counselor.

1950 'S' Mint Coinage

Cents	118,505,000
Dimes	20,440,000
Quarters	10,284,004
Booker T. Washington Halves	512,091

No 5-cent or regular issue 50-cent pieces were made.

K. W. Lee To Write On California Gold

The story of the fractional private gold coinage of California will be told by Kenneth W. Lee, Glendale numismatist, in the May issue of **Calcoin News.**

Lee's father, the late Ed. M. Lee, published the standard reference on the subject of California gold quarters, halves, and dollars in 1932, and listed 250 varieties. Kenneth Lee has carried on this work, and says that the series now consists of well over 400 varieties.

Lee has a new book on the series in preparation, but it will be some time before it goes to press.

Dealers: Attention

The fall convention place and date are not yet selected but your attention is called to the fact that ANY dealer member is eligible to submit a proposal for the auction for that convention.

The board of directors will make the selection at the convention in Santa Cruz and all proposals submitted will be given consideration. Any dealer desiring information on the subject is invited to write the secretary for details.

Proposals should be submitted in writing, and if desired, may be sealed, not to be opened until submitted to the board at its meeting during the Santa Cruz convention on April 7.

—L. C. Panosh, Secretary.

Recent Library Additions

Most recent contributions to the CSNA library include: **The Currency of the Great War** by Benjamin White, Leonel C. Panosh; The Numismatic Gallery's ANA auction catalog, 1949, Abe Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg; B. Max Mehl's Jerome Kern sale and the Numismatic Gallery's Menjou sale, J. R. Stewart.

The ancient historian, Dionysius Exeguus, neglected to insert a year "zero" between the years B.C. and A.D.

Santa Cruz, Convention City

"This site is suitable, not only for a pueblo, but even for a city, for it lacks nothing that is necessary, having good land, water, pasture, firewood and timber, all at hand and in abundance, and close to the beach of Monterey Bay . . . " — Father Francisco Palou, 1774.

Nature has been kind to Santa Cruz. The blue Pacific to the west and the surrounding Santa Cruz mountains, give this historic playground a pleasant year-round climate. Refreshingly cool in summer, delightfully moderate in winter, the weather is ideal every month of the year. With cool, tangy winds from the sea, warm California sunshine, a blending of seascape and mountain, Nature has created a playground paradise. Santa Cruz is a place to play, to relax, to enjoy.

Gently sloping, with an easy rolling surf, Santa Cruz beaches are safe for children. There is no undertow, and the expanse of clean sand invites sunbathing and picnicking. Riding is a thrill along the miles of scenic trails that wind through the Santa Cruz mountains and along the beaches. Hiking is fun, too.

There are many things to see, such as the amazing Mystery Spot, the Santa Cruz Mission, the giant Big Trees, the natural arches, and the world-famous begonia gardens. The giant redwoods are located in Santa Cruz County Redwood Park, only six miles away. These "sentinels of the ages" date back beyond Biblical times, and are major California attractions. Big Basin State Redwood Park, a short drive beyond, may be reached by modern scenic highway. At the beach is the famous Boardwalk, the Pacific Coast's longest cement boardwalk, with its many concessions and rides. These concessions will be open during the CSNA convention.

The Hotel Casa Del Rey, where the convention will be held, is located just a step from the famous Santa Cruz Beach.

Scene at the famous Boardwalk and Santa Cruz Beach.

Numismatic Conventions and Auctions

To many who attend a numismatic convention the auction sale is the high point of the program. To some it is just another feature, and to a few the sale is of no interest. Generally speaking, there are three interested groups at any auction sale. The buyer, who hopes to purchase a coin or coins he needs to round out his collection, and perhaps to get it or them as cheaply as possible; the seller or consignor, who hopes through competition to receive as much as possible for the coins he has consigned for sale; and finally the auctioneer, who likewise hopes to realize as much as possible, since his commission is dependent on the price realized.

Hotel Casa Del Rey

In view of the conflicting desires it is obvious that not all can be satisfied. Furthermore, printing of expensive catalogs, advertising costs, postage, insurance and other items of expense, plus the element of profit for the auctioneer, make a comparatively high commission necessary. All this has led to the custom of "reserve" or "starting" bids, which usually are so high that they defeat the very purpose of an auction. As a result, the average collector is reluctant to offer his coins for sale through the medium of the auction sale.

Paul H. Wittlin, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif., who has been awarded the auction sale for the eighth semi-annual convention of the California State Numismatic Association to be held at the Hotel Casa Del Rey in Santa Cruz April 6, 7, and 8, proposes to eliminate most of the above objections by holding a low-cost, non-profit sale for the average collector. By taking no profit for himself, printing only a modest catalog, and assuming costs of such advertising as is done, he proposes to charge a commission of 5% on sales of $5 or more with a charge of 25 cents as a minimum.

Santa Cruz County Redwood Park

Wittlin is a comparative newcomer to California. His purpose in thus donating his services is not charity or philanthropy. His compensation will be the publicity and good will of the collecting public; but more than that, there will be, to quote his own words, "the moral satisfaction of trying, at least, to do something for the beginner and the average collector; for the man who is not interested in coins but happens to have some which he would like to sell; for the little fellow and bona fide enthusiast who is just starting, by run-

(Continued on Page 10)

Who's Who In California Numismatics

J. R. STEWART

"Persistency, thou art a jewel" might well be the motto of J. R. "Jack" Stewart, Ontario. After having completed in series most denominations of U.S. coins, his home was burglarized and his entire collection was taken. He ardently started again from "scratch."

"To me the coins were just items in series which I wanted to complete, Stewart explains, "but to the one who took them they still were money which could be spent."

Stewart says he had accumulated a small assortment of coins through the years. "More or less battered ones which I saved for sentimental reasons attaching to the particular years," he says. He kept them in a dresser drawer.

He began serious coin collecting in 1943, and became an avid collector of the entire U.S. series, mostly circulated specimens. In a few years he had completed some denominations and was well along with others when the burglary took place.

Stewart began anew, this time collecting quality U.S. coins, uncirculated and proof.

"Lately I have become interested in the coins of South American countries, and am playing around with them occasionally. I own no rarities, but get much pleasure from the coins I have," Jack points out.

J. R. attended the organization meeting of the California State Numismatic Association at Santa Barbara, Feb. 22, 1947, and is a charter member. He was elected to the board of directors Feb. 21, 1948, and still is serving in that capacity. Jack is an active member of the board, and has served the state organization in some way at nearly all of its conventions, usually at the registration desk.

He was 1950 president of the Orange County Coin Club and is now on the board of directors of that organization. He is a member of the San Bernardino County Coin Club, the San Diego Numismatic Society, and the American Numismatic Association.

Stewart was born Nov. 28, 1876, "in that portion of downtown New York known as Greenwich Village." The financial depression of the 1890s ended his schooling at the high school level in 1893.

In 1895 he came to California.

"I got tangled up with deciduous fruits — grew, bought, processed, and sold them for many years. Later I became inspector for the State Department of Agriculture, and thereby got my feet in the public trough," he says.

He married a native daughter, Miss Irene Hutchison, who was born in Saratoga, Santa Clara County. He has three children, 10 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren.

Jack was brought up a Presbyterian. He is a Rotarian, and is past president of the Chino Rotary Club.

It would take about 300,000 sheets of gold-leaf to make a thickness of one inch.

California Club News, Views, and Whos

BAY CITIES COIN CLUB, Santa Monica. — M. H. Bolender, Freeport, Ill., was speaker at the installation dinner of the Bay Cities Coin Club Jan. 13. His subject was "U.S. Silver Dollars."

Officers installed by S. M. Koeppel are Ben Schwartz, president; K. J. Older, vice-president; Margaret Snair, secretary; C. Max Wedertz, treasurer; and Joe Block and Perry Ward, board members.

* * *

HANFORD COIN CLUB.—Edward Fish presented a monogram, "The Coventry Penny," at the Feb. 6 club meeting, held at 1117 N. Irwin St., Hanford. Twenty-three members and five guests were present, an attendance record of 62%.

Clarence Berry presided. Cherry pie and coffee were served by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hess and Mr. and Mrs. William Van Zanten, who were in charge of refreshments. Attendance prizes were won by Joe McRendles and Roy Applegate. Harold Geyer, Merrill Cole, and Ralph Mitchell sold numerous coins at auction.

Clarence Berry and Arthur Hess, National Coin Week committee, will obtain suitable window spaces for display of members' coins and will report locations at the March meeting.

Officers for 1951 were inducted at the Jan. 2 meeting by Ralph "Curly" Mitchell, as only he can do it. Fourteen members and their ladies attended the meeting, held in the Banquet Room of Peden's Cafe, Hanford.

New officers are Clarence A. Berry, president; Arthur W. Hess, vice-president; Fred E. Tinkham, secretary-treasurer; and J. Craig Shaw, auctioneer.

Forest Speck, outgoing president, thanked officers and members for their cooperation during 1950, requested the same cooperation for the incoming president, and presented him with the gavel. Clarence Berry promised his best efforts for a successful 1951.

Berry presented a paper, "Evolution of Our Silver Dollar," which was very informative, covering the subject from the coin's origin to the present. A paper will be presented each month hereafter by a member, the copy to be filed in the club library.

Colored slides, photographed and projected by Dick Tarr, guest, showed many beautiful scenes throughout the U.S.

Merrill Cole won the attendance prize. The auction included numerous offerings by Harold Geyer, Fred Schaffer, Charlie Heilman, and Edward Fish. Craig Shaw, new auctioneer, performed like a veteran.

—Fred E. Tinkham, Secretary.

* * *

LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB. — Official installation of new officers took place at the Feb. 2 banquet meeting, held at the Carolina Pines, Hollywood. Adolph Larson was master of ceremonies.

Officers are Maxwell Boggs, president; George Bennett, vice-president; Lloyd Nelson, treasurer; V. E. Jenkins, secretary; and Karl Brainard and James F. Whitney, board of governors.

Newell Soule, well-known baritone and close friend of Adolph Larson, entertained with popular and semi-classical songs.

Numerous door prizes were donated by members of the club, the Numismatic Gallery, and S. M. Koeppel. These included an 1878S trade dollar, unc.; Frey's **Dictionary of Numismatic Names;** a Vatican set; several uncirculated 1949 Canadian dollars; and an 1851 half cent.

Meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 1329 S. Hope St., third floor.

Dr. Glen Curtis addressed the 273rd meeting of the club Jan. 5 on the coins of Ecuador. As background for numismatics of the country, he discussed briefly the cultural and ethnological aspects of Ecuador. In this connection, colorful slides were shown, and there was a table display of Indian paraphernalia such as blowgun darts, a shrunken human head, and beads. He said primitive Indian tribes of Ecuador still make effective use of the blowgun, which shoots a needle-like 10-inch dart. These darts are tipped with a potent drug that leaves their victims unconscious, enabling the hunter to dispose of his quarry in the most arbitrary manner, and he often beheads

him. Thus the shrunken heads become trophies of war.

One of the strange features of collecting coins in Ecuador is a particular spot where two old ships are sunk off shore. Coins often are washed upon the beach, and some in Dr. Curtis' collection were obtained in this way. Curtis also displayed a Spanish doubloon. His collection of Ecuador is one of the largest known.

New members to date for the ensuing year are W. R. Fanning, Frank Zaylik, R. E. St. Clair, Grace Brainard, J. G. Miladin, H. F. Donald, and Jack Pressman.

Among more than 100 auction lots sold by George Bennett was a freak cent with tails on both sides.

—V. E. Jenkins, Secretary.

* * *

ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB, Brea. — One hundred ten members and guests attended the 12th annual banquet Jan. 24 at the Woman's Clubhouse, Brea. These were joined by about 60 others who came later to enjoy the two-hour program after the banquet. The occasion was official installation of 1951 officers.

In keeping with the established custom of the club, the meal was served "hot from the kitchen" by waiters selected from club members present by the banquet chairman, Dr. C. Glen Curtis. Bobbie Martin played her accordion during the banquet.

Following the dinner, Herb Bergen made a surprise appearance in the guise of ringmaster, and proceeded to crack the whip. He greeted visitors and took note of numismatic dignitaries present. Particular attention was given to Leonel Panosh, vice-president, and Charles Ruby, member of the board of governors, ANA. The spotlight also was turned on Ralph Mitchell and Dr. C. L. Emmons of the CSNA.

The master of ceremonies then turned from the obverse (conspicuous) field of numismatics, usually occupied by husbands, to the reverse (inconspicuous) field which he said is featured by wives of coin collectors. Several wives were called upon to give their opinions of coin collecting. What they revealed could well be made the subject of a mirth-provoking paper.

The program was climaxed with a stirring talk by Loyd Prante on the subject, "Horses and Horse Cents." Due attention was given to the pursuit of a hobby, whether of horses or coins. Seldom has a banquet audience been held so spellbound and seldom have so many listeners been seen to brush away tears when the speaker finished. Even the master of ceremonies was forced to lay off his wisecracks for several reverent minutes.

Drawings were held for eight door prizes contributed by Southern California coin dealers: S. J. Kabealo, Eugene Johnston, I. B. Knickerbocker, S. M. Koeppel, Kenneth Lee, and the Numismatic Gallery (Kosoff and Kreisberg). Stewart Bingham awarded prizes.

A delightful and witty review of the history of the club was then presented by Howard Robinson, who discussed each president and his term of office.

Adolph Larson installed 1951 officers in an impressive ceremony. J. R. "Jack" Stewart, retiring president, gave his farewell address to the tune of "The Old Grey Mare," and the new president, Dr. Verner Rich, arose to give his promise, "I'll do my best," on the strength of which a beautiful bouquet of flowers which had graced the head table during the evening was presented to Mrs. Rich.

Putting aside further business and nonsense, the master of ceremonies ordered the meeting closed to strains of Aloha.

New officers elected at the 151st meeting Dec. 27 are Dr. Verner G. Rich, president; Dr. C. Glen Curtis, vice-president; Joe Steele, membership secretary; Herbert M. Bergen, recording secretary; John I. Haldiman, Jr., treasurer; and Dr. C. L. Emmons, Stewart Bingham, Vreeland H. Fraser, and J. R. Stewart, directors.

Dr. Rich, president-elect, gave a talk on "Coins of India." He presented an historic outline, illustrated by chart, of the coinage of the various mints of ruling principalities. The chart also showed principal variations in designs and inscriptions by which the times and places of origin can best be determined. The student of Indian coins learned much which will help him to decipher and classify his coins. A large and well-arranged display of ancient and modern coins of India were exhibited by the speaker.

Sergeants Jim Colby and Charles Laskowski of El Toro Marine Air

Base were guests. Burdeth Keith, Fullerton; George A. Lefler, Temple City; and Jack Pressman, Beverly Hills, became members of the club.

Refreshments were served and a snappy auction under the hammer of S. M. Koeppel concluded the meeting. —Herb Bergen, Secretary.

* * *

PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, San Francisco. — Earl A. Parker addressed the Jan. 31 meeting of the club on "U.S. 3-Cent Pieces." Twenty-seven members and 14 guests were present.

Exhibits were made by Jack Hecht, Clifford Bloom, Bruno Crossfield, and E. A. Parker.

Lesley Lodge, treasurer, served as secretary in the absence of Edward Fogler, who is recuperating from an operation in St. Mary's Hospital, Hayes & Stanyan Sts., San Francisco.

Lieut. Comdr. H. F. Bowker, 1716 Gouldin Rd., Oakland, 11, Calif., is new editor of the **Numismatic Bulletin,** succeeding Roy Hill. Hill has been editor since the bulletin was established in February, 1948.

—Lesley Lodge and E. A. Parker.

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REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB, Santa Rosa. — The club met Jan. 16 in the Tap Room of Grace Bros. Brewery.

Jane Lambert and Ralph A. Mitchell were named honorary members of the club. Bill Lambert volunteered to be publicity man. Henry Wrede fired the first round toward National Coin Week.

Bob Hetland keeps a weather-eye open for coins wanted by members, as he and his associates have access to many coins.

Exhibits: Bob Hetland, small gold piece of Peru; L. J. Wallace, U.S. dollars; Bob Anderson, U.S. halves; and Henry Wrede, 1879 metric dollar and European paper money.

—Guy L. Chapman, Secretary
807 Orchard St., Santa Rosa

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB. — The January club meeting was cancelled to encourage as many members as possible to attend the nearby Orange County Coin Club's annual banquet. About 50% of our members enjoyed the fine dinner, speaker, and the general good humor of the occasion. Adolph Shakespeare Bryan Larson Jr. installed the 1951 Orange County officers in his unique way.

The 30th club meeting was held Dec. 21 at the San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce office. Charles V. Kappen, journalism professor at San Jose State College and editor of **Calcoin News,** was speaker. Kappen spoke on "Some Coins of Historical Interest," and exhibited most of those mentioned in his talk. Some of these were the Peacock rupee of Burma, a half-won of Korea, and a triens and a quadrans of ancient Rome, about 311 B.C.

Prof. Kappen was awarded a ribbon by Pres. Lloyd Blue Jr. for his display of coins. This is a practice that has been started to encourage participation by members through display of their coins.

The usual auction was held, and door prizes were awarded.

—Bryan Burke Jr.,
Recording Secretary.

* * *

SAN DIEGO NUMIS. SOCIETY

Monday, Jan. 8. — Regular meeting held with Vice-President M. S. Newton presiding. Election of officers completed with election of Dr. Ray H. Wilson as secretary. A brisk auction with Dr. Bruce L. Wallace as auctioneer was held. Refreshments were served.

Saturday, Jan. 13. — Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Panosh attended annual installation dinner of Bay Cities Coin Club at Carolina Pines in Beverly Hills. Ben Schwartz was installed president; Sam Koeppel was installing officer. M. H. Bolender, Freeport, Ill., was speaker of the evening.

Wednesday, Jan. 24. — Fifteen San Diegans, including Mr. and Mrs. Irving Knickerbocker, Mr. and Mrs. Chamberlain, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Panosh, Eugene D. Johnston, Dr. Bruce L. Wallace, Mrs. Marie Devlin, and Mrs. Nelle Jones, attended Orange County Coin Club installation dinner at Woman's Clubhouse, Brea. Adolph Larson Jr. installed Dr. V. G. Rich, president.

Saturday, Jan. 27. — Fifty-five members and guests were present at 14th annual installation dinner meeting of San Diego Numismatic Society at the U.S. Grant Hotel. Dr. Bruce L. Wallace, past president, was master of ceremonies, and installed the

following officers for 1951: President, Col. Stanley Newton; vice-president, James Crouthamel; secretary, Dr. Ray H. Wilson; treasurer, Paul Boltz; librarian-curator, Atwood L. MacDonald; editor-historian, Thomas W. Ward; and board of governors, Eugene D. Johnston.

Ribbons were awarded the following displays, judging being done by ballot of those present: First, James Crouthamel, U.S. type sets in proof; second, Leonel C. Panosh, complete set of medals of Society of Medalists; third, Vreeland Fraser, U.S. proof coins; fourth, Mrs. Eula Crouthamel, large size currency; fifth, Ralph Mitchell, Chinese crowns.

Among those present were Dr. and Mrs. Calvert L. Emmons, Ontario; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davidson, Santa Monica; Vreeland Fraser, La Canada; and Ralph Mitchell, Bakersfield.

—L. C. Panosh.

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SAN JOSE COIN CLUB. — The Rev. George R. Flora, who returned recently from 10 years spent in Liberia, Africa, working among the native peoples, addressed the San Jose Coin Club Feb. 5 on the coins of Liberia and life in the jungles of Africa.

The Rev. Flora showed native coins, made by hand of twisted iron wire, 16 inches long. These coins have a spade at one end, and a pair of horns at the other. When the horns, or prongs, wear off, or are broken off, the money no longer is good, and it then is taken to the blacksmith, who makes it into hoes, axes, and other hand implements.

"This money is 'minted' by tribal blacksmiths, who always are handicapped persons unable to work in the fields," the Rev. Flora said. "The iron money is wrapped with thongs in bundles of 20 to 40 pieces, and the bundles of money are carried by the native women on their heads when they go shopping to the village. Each piece is valued at ¼-cent, and will buy a 'hand' of bananas," the speaker said.

Of recent years the government of Liberia has had silver and bronze coins minted by foreign countries, which are patterned after U.S. coinage, the former missionary said.

The Rev. Flora said that foreign silver money is much sought after by the natives, who make it into bracelets, necklaces, and other pieces of jewelry. He exhibited many specimens of such coin-silver jewelry from his collection.

The speaker was introduced by George F. Kohl, secretary. The meeting was held in the Small Ballroom of the DeAnza Hotel.

Syl C. Tully Jr. gave an informative talk on English coinage at the Jan. 8 meeting, held in the Flamingo Room of the Hotel DeAnza. He supplemented his address with a display from his collection of English coins, the series to which he limits his collecting.

National Coin Week was discussed, and Pres. C. V. Kappen appointed Cliff D. Anderson, Syl C. Tully Jr., and George F. Hodges as a committee to arrange for and sponsor exhibits in San Jose April 20-26.

George F. Hodges was appointed vice-president to succeed Dirck Arrowsmith, resigned.

The meeting was attended by persons from Campbell, Carmel, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco.

Paul H. Wittlin, Carmel, and the Hollinbeck Stamp and Coin Co., Des Moines, Ia., became club members.

Roy Hill exhibited historical books and leaflets, Earl A. Parker displayed French coins and essais, and Paul H. Wittlin showed English and U.S. coins of dollar-size.

—George F. Hodges.

Numismatic Gallery Moves

The Numismatic Gallery moved Jan. 1 to a new location, 228 N. Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, and added an antique gallery. The AKs, Abner Kreisberg and Abe Kosoff, held a "twin galleries" open house in February.

Numismatic Auctions

(Continued from Page 5)

ning once or twice a year a sale which would be of little or no interest to the top 500 collectors in the U.S., a sale where pedigreed coins and big shot collectors would be absent, a sale which would appeal to and be absolutely trusted by the great mass of average collectors."

Assuming that Wittlin is sincere in his motives, it promises to be a noble experiment, the results of which will be watched with interest by all those interested in this feature of our numismatic conventions. —L. C. Panosh, Secretary.

Biblical Numismatics

By G. R. HALLIDAY, *Los Angeles*

Many of us are familiar with the beautiful stories and historical events recorded in the Scripture and we know that a number of them refer directly or indirectly to coins. Through the collecting and study of these ancient pieces, new interest and added charm are given to the Bible narratives. By means of Biblical coins we are transported, as it were, swiftly back across the centuries to the times and places of the recorded events.

The term "money" is used in the Bible as far back as the time of Abram, some 1900 years before the birth of Christ, but the word has been inserted by the translators. It does not appear in the original text. Actual coins were not struck until about 800 B.C.

In the early stages of Old Testament life, cattle (which included herds of oxen, asses, camels, and horses, as well as flocks of sheep and goats) represented the principal wealth of the people. This wealth was used in direct barter and also as a medium of exchange. However, large transactions were made by the transfer of crude lumps and cast ingots of gold or silver. In Gen. 13:2 we read, "And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."

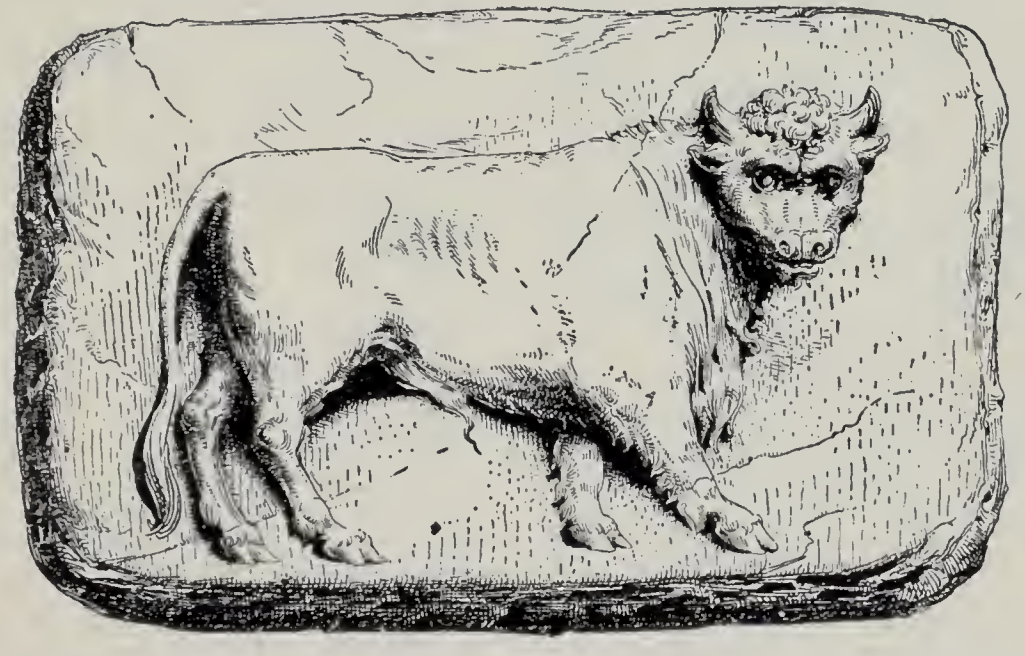
Articles of personal adornment in the form of earrings, and bracelets worn on arms and ankles, also were accepted readily in business dealings. Both the metal pieces and items of jewelry were weighed out as needed and their value reckoned in shekels and talents, a weight system which was in extensive use during the period preceding the captivity.

The word "pecuniary" is derived from the Latin "pecunia," money, which in turn is taken from "pecus," (a flock of sheep or a herd of cattle).

Not until after the subjugation of Babylon by the Persians under Cyrus (538 B.C.) and his proclamation (foretold in Isa. 44:28) to God's people granting them their liberty after 70 years in captivity to return to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple (536 B.C.), do we find definite coins mentioned in the Old Testament.

> "They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments." (Ezra 2:69).

In the American Revised Version



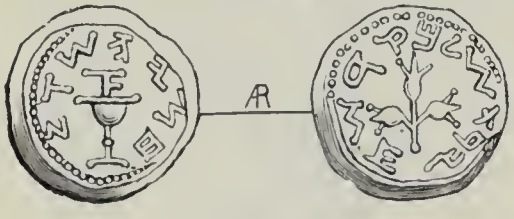
Artist's conception of Aes Signatum, after B.C. 450. This "original" money, very rare, had the value of one head of cattle. The artist has the bull facing in the wrong direction and has drawn the detail too fine; otherwise, the coin is as pictured, the stance — positions of legs, head, tail, etc., being the same.

the phrase, "darics of gold," instead of "drams of gold," is given. The word "darics" is considered to be a more accurate translation and refers to the small gold coins issued by the Persians. On these coins can be seen what is assumed to be Darius the king in the kneeling position of an archer with a bow in his left hand and a short lance in his right. The chief weapon of the Persians at that time was the bow. It was by overwhelming their enemies under a hail of arrows that their victories were won.

The coins of Alexander the Great, while not mentioned in the Bible, could, nevertheless, be classified as being inter-related to Biblical history. The profound impression his amazing conquests made upon the people of his day resulted in the spreading of the language and culture of Greece until it became worldwide in scope.

The coins of the Jews, of course, belong in the collection of Biblical money. In this respect, Israel has supplied us with a real puzzle. I refer to the silver shekels struck by the Jewish people as a nation, during one of the few times in their history when they were not completely dominated by a foreign power.

The inscription on the obverse of these coins reads "Shekel Israel" and shows a jeweled chalice, generally considered to be the cup or pot containing the manna which was placed in the sanctuary. "And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a pot, and put



Shekel of Israel
(Reduced Size)

an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the Lord, to be kept for your generations." (Ex. 16:33).

The Hebrew on the reverse reads "Jerusalem the Holy." The design is that of a triple lily. "I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily . . . " (Hos. 14:5). However, the usual interpretation is that it represents Aaron's rod that "budded and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds." (Num. 17:8) and which, like the cup of manna, also was laid up before the Lord (Num. 17:10).

Just when these coins (shekels and half-shekels) were issued is a question which perplexes numismatists. They have been assigned by some to the time of Ezra and by others to the period of Simon Maccabaeus. A third group of scholars attribute them to the First Revolt of the Jews against Rome (A.D. 66-70). The keeper of the coins of the British Museum adheres to this latter view.

Moving on from Old Testament history and events to New Testament ground, it is interesting to digress for a moment and note how God uses men and nations to further His plans. It was no mere coincidence that the exploits of Alexander paved the way for the language of Greece to become a universal tongue. Thus, when Jesus proclaimed the gospel of salvation to all mankind, a language recognized as the most perfect vehicle of human speech, then devised, was ready to carry His message throughout the world.

> " . . . when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman . . . " (Gal. 4:4).

Our Lord, the Prince of Peace, was born when peace prevailed, not only in Judea, but in neighboring countries as well. The Emperor Augustus had placed p e r m a n e n t garrisons along the frontiers of his vast domain to preserve law and order, and had issued a decree that a census be taken for the purpose of taxation, little dreaming that he, too, was being used of God, in this case to usher in, in fulfillment of prophecy, the greatest event in the history of mankind: the birth of Jesus, the Christ, at Bethlehem.

The coin most frequently mentioned in the New Testament is the so-called penny of the Bible. We find this coin referred to in the "Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard." (Matt. 20:2. " . . . when he had agreed with his laborers for a penny a day . . . "). Then when the Pharisees sought to entangle Jesus with the question as to whether or not He thought it lawful to pay tribute to Caesar, He asked them to show Him the tribute money. They brought to Him a penny. "Whose is this image and superscription?" Jesus asked. They answered, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Render

therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." (Matt. 22:15-22).

The coin referred to in practically every instance as a penny is the Roman denarius, a silver coin somewhat similar in size to our 10-cent piece. The name "penny" undoubtedly comes from the silver penny of England which was in popular circu-

Tribute Penny of Tiberius

lation at the time the King James Version of the Bible was translated. Therefore, the coin which was handed to our Lord as the tribute money was, it is reasonable to believe, a denarius of Tiberius, emperor at that time.

Only Jewish coins were permitted in the temple treasury and it was the business of the money changers to change, for a small consideration, heathen money into Jewish. The smallest Jewish coin extant during the lifetime of our Lord was the lepton of the Macabees and it is considered to be the "widow's mite," mentioned in Mark 12:41-44.

The farthing is one of the small bronze coins struck in Judea by the Roman administrators, under authority of the emperor, for circulation among the Jews. It is to be noted that, in consideration of the strong religious feelings of the Children of Israel, no portrait of the reigning caesar appears on them. To have forced the issue would have been to incite a riot, for the second commandment — "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image . . . " (Ex. 20:4) — was a stern reality to the Jew. Thus we see an Augustus or a Tiberius bowing to the will of Jehovah in the proudest prerogative of his monarchy, that of placing his own image on the coinage of the realm.

The money produced in the fish's mouth by the miracle of our Lord was a tetradrachm or, as it was then called, a stater. This was the largest silver coin in general use in Palestine and neighboring countries. For purposes of reckoning it was considered equal in value to a Jewish shekel, two half-shekels, or four Roman denarii.

The 30 pieces of silver paid to Judas for the betrayal of Christ were, no doubt, also tetradrachms. In Ex. 21:32 we note that 30 shekels is the price to be paid to an owner upon the accidental death of his slave; and in Matt. 27:3-8 the 30 pieces of silver are referred to as "the price of blood." Here, too, we must conclude that the 4-drachm pieces were reckoned as equal in value to the traditional s h e k e l s. Tetradrachms bearing the portrait of Augustus from the nearby mint at Antioch most likely formed the bulk of the money paid for the treachery, as these pieces were more numerous among the coins circulating in Judea during the life of the Master. However, tetradrachms of Syria, Egypt, and Phoenicia also could have been used in making up the 30 pieces, as they all were current at that time.

I would like to quote from Scripture a prophecy which the Lord Himself made referring to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. "And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and His disciples came to Him for to shew Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (Matt. 24:1,2).

The first revolt of the Jews against Rome broke out in 66 A.D. This insurrection lasted four years. The Jewish forces held out against the power of Rome with a stubbornness born of a religious fanaticism that was superhuman, until Titus (son of the Emperor Vespasian) reached Jerusalem with his legions in the spring of 70 A.D. Forcing the siege, he took the city. Strict instructions were issued that the beautiful temple building, one of the wonders of the world of that day, was to be preserved intact, but a drunken soldier threw a flaming torch within its walls, setting it afire. When the flames subsided, the looting commenced and it soon was noticed that the heavy gold plate used ornamentally on the face of the white marble blocks, had

melted and run between the stones. In their efforts to obtain the precious metal, the looters literally tore the building apart and the prophecy of Jesus was thereby fulfilled. Not one stone was left upon another.

To commemorate the capture of Jerusalem, the triumphal Arch of Titus, adorned with representations of the seven-branched golden candlestick and the chalice taken from the temple, was erected in Rome and coins bearing the legend JUDAEA CAPTA were struck.

Since their invention, some 800 years before the birth of the Savior, coins can be looked upon as monuments of history in miniature. They tell us a vivid story of men and events, clearly revealing the thought and life of the people issuing them. The Biblical pieces bear witness, in no uncertain manner, to the authenticity of the Book of Life, God's Holy Word, the Bible.

East Bay Club Exhibits

The East Bay Coin Club has maintained a series of coin exhibits at the Oakland Public Museum, 1426 Oak St., Oakland, during the past six months, which are proving a great attraction to the public.

Coins are lent by members, the exhibits to remain on show from four to six weeks. Among displays have been ancient coins, animals on coins, coins of the Vatican, and interesting and unusual coins.

Ed Fogler Suffers Injury

Ed Fogler, PCNS secretary, is convalescing in Room 423 at St. Mary's Hospital, Hayes and Stanyan Sts., San Francisco, following an operation for removal of a rib. Ed was injured Christmas Day in an elevator accident at Compton's Powell St. cafeteria. Another man had loaded plywood on the basement elevator, and as the plywood was too long, it bent upon hitting the sidewalk. Neither Ed nor the other man could reach the controls. Although his companion was crushed to death, Ed got to one side, but suffered four crushed ribs.

Fogler was taken immediately to the hospital, where he is progressing satisfactorily. He hopes to be returned to his home soon.

Proposal To Amend CSNA Constitution, Article 4, Section 1

Which now reads:

"The officers of this association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Librarian-Historian-Curator; and five directors, one of whom shall be the immediate Past President."

To Read:

"The officers of this association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Librarian-Historian-Curator; and five directors, one of whom shall be the immediate Past President, and another of whom shall be a recognized coin dealer."

Reasons for submission:

1. We have 47 coin dealers who are members of the association, many of them collectors as well as dealers, who are as interested as any collector in the progress and welfare of the organization, and many of whom are among the best informed members concerning our hobby.
2. Coin dealers, through the auction and bourse, play an important part in our conventions.
3. Under Article 3, Section 3, a dealer is as entitled to hold office as any other member, and there is only an **unwritten** rule that no dealer may hold office.
4. THEREFORE—In order that this important part of our membership may have representation on the board; and further, in order that the board may have the benefit of the ideas and experiences of the dealer group, it is proposed that **one** of the five directors be chosen from this group.

Know About This Bar?

Erich Werling, 1856 - 66th Ave., Oakland 21, Calif., sends a sketch of a silver bar which he recently has acquired, and wishes information concerning it.

It is impossible to reproduce the sketch here, but on the bar is included the following information: "Thomas Price & Son, Assayers, San Francisco, 2.04 oz. silver, 999 fine."

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS

433 BOLENDER, M. H. ..... 1126 Benson Blvd., Freeport, Ill.
432 HUDSON, Gerald L. ..... 5361 Montecito Way, Santa Rosa, Calif.
435 KIBBEY, Mead B. ..... 361 Ross Way, Sacramento, Calif.
434 McPHEETERS, John L. ..... 535 E. Channel St., Stockton, Calif.

REINSTATEMENTS

273 HAMIL, Miss Maurie A. ..... 1901 N. Main St., Santa Ana, Calif.

RESIGNATIONS

354 THOMAS, Carl D.

ADDRESS CHANGES

176 BENSON, Mrs. Robert ..... 536 N. Gerona, San Gabriel, Calif.
290 CHADWICK, Isaac E. ..... 517 S. Mariposa St., Los Angeles 5, Calif.
31 CONNOR, Willard C. ..... 3801-16th Ave., Sacramento 17, Calif.
180 DIETERLE, Vincent D. ..... 1832 S. Bronson Ave., Los Angeles 19, Calif.
137 FRY, Eldon F. ..... P. O. Box 1384, San Francisco, Calif.
195 GODBEY, Mrs. M. L. Ashton ..... 5528 E. 17th St., Oakland 21, Calif.
192 HIGBEE, Wayne L. ..... 716-20th St., Santa Monica, Calif.
229 JOHNSON, Don S. ..... 4826 Woodley Ave., Encino, Calif.
105 KOSOFF, Abe ..... 228 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif.
113 KREISBERG, Abner ..... 228 N. Beverly Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif.
310 LYONS, Mrs. Bessie K. ..... 320 N. Sweetzer, Los Angeles 48, Calif.
151 LYONS, Ronnie ..... 320 N. Sweetzer, Los Angeles 48, Calif.
321 MONEY, Mona N. ..... 523 Hobart St., Oakland, Calif.
134 NELSON, Helen L. ..... 425 Pennsylvania Ave., Santa Cruz, Calif.
56 ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB, Herbert M. Bergen, sec., ... 604 N. Spadra Rd., Fullerton, Calif.
80 PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, Lesley G. Lodge, treas., ... 962 Jones St., Apt. 7, San Francisco 9, Calif.
390 REDWOOD EMPIRE COIN CLUB, Guy Chapman, sec., ... 801 Benton St., Santa Rosa, Calif.
81 SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY, Dr. Ray H. Wilson, sec., ... 4003 Goldfinch St., San Diego 3, Calif.
65 SMITH, Fred H. ..... 115 E. Fourth St., Ontario, Calif.
384 WARNER, Bernard L. ..... 225 N. Reeves Dr., Beverly Hills, Calif.
30 WERLING, Erich ..... 1856-66th Ave., Oakland 21, Calif.
51 WRIGHT, Miss Marie E. ..... 2210 Eye St., Apt. 4-C, Sacramento, Calif.

DEATHS

351 SMITH, Frank S., Sr. ..... N. Main and Geneva Rd., Wheaton, Ill.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, March 1, 1951

Membership reported 11-5-50		323
Gains: New Members admitted	16	
Reinstatements	1	17
		340
Less: Losses:		
Deceased	2	
Resignations	1	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	30	33
Membership 3-1-51		307

Feb. 22, 1947, to March 1, 1951

Total admitted since 2-22-47		435
Losses: Deceased	14	
Resignations	21	
Dropped (Less Reinstatements)	93	128
Membership 3-1-51		307

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
Nov. 5, 1950 - March 1, 1951

Cash on Hand and in Bank 11-5-50 (Deficit)		$ 37.74
Receipts: 1950 Dues	$ 10.00	
1951 Dues	404.00	
1950 Fall Convention	1079.05	
Bulletin	100.00	1593.05
		$1555.31
Less: Disbursements:		
Bulletin	$ 274.98	
1950 Fall Convention	838.97	
Postage	15.12	
Librarian Expense	3.00	
Office and General	73.17	1205.24
Cash on Hand and in Bank 3-1-51		$ 350.07

'S' Mint Foreman Tells of Production

The San Francisco mint has produced slightly more than 20,000,000 coins so far this year*, according to George C. Ruge, foreman of the Coin and Press Room. Of this number, 12,004 Booker T. Washington commemorative half dollars; 1,220,000 Franklin half dollars; and 10,800,000 one-cent pieces were made during January.

The Philadelphia mint turned out 60,013 Booker T. Washington half dollars and the Denver mint, 12,004 in January. This is the second year in which one mint made more than the others, leaving an odd quantity over and above what might be called "sets."

*As of Feb. 15, 1951.

Phoenix Club Celebrates

Among CSNA members who attended the sixth anniversary party of the Phoenix Coin Club Dec. 10 were Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Panosh, Karl Brainard, Jack Ogilvie, Sam Kabealo, Dr. C. Glen Curtis, Arthur Shipkey, and Herb Bergen. ANA President M. Vernon Sheldon and Mrs. Sheldon were present.

Sheldon presented the first award for National Coin Week to the club, the third straight year it had won it. He also made a premiere showing of 35 mm. colored slides of the new ANA series of ancient coins.

The meeting was held in the Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, which will be headquarters for the 1951 ANA convention.

National Coin Week

"Numismatics of American History" is the theme of National Coin Week, to be observed April 20-26. Any collector of U.S. coins, currency, medals, decorations, tokens, store cards, or so-called "dollars," will find much to exhibit from his collection, as will the collector of English tokens or colonials. Commemorative coins particularly are rich in historical significance. Principal efforts should be directed toward displaying and identifying exhibits to carry out the theme. Neatly-printed cards, properly-designed headings, color, background, etc., should be taken into account.

EAST BOY COIN CLUB, Oakland. — The Feb. 9 meeting at Jenny Lind Hall featured a dealers' bourse. There was no speaker. Pres. A. W. Ritchie announced that a $1 prize will be given each time to the member who gives the most interesting talk pertaining to his exhibit. Exhibitors were Col. Charles Steele, Rudy Gjurovich, Chuck Peters, S. S. Hawley, and John Ohls. S. S. Hawley was prize-winner.

A. G. Clarke addressed the club Jan. 12 on English farthings, and illustrated his talk with coins from his collection. Sixty members and guests were present. J. H. Rogers, program chairman, conducted the auction. Refreshments were served.

—Antoinette Connell, Secretary.